

House and Senate. Clearly, the majority is not truly interested in solving this problem.

I hope my colleagues will oppose this bill and will join me in urging Republicans to get serious about this issue and to focus more on the security of this country than the security of their jobs.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MASSACRE AT BABI YAR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 65th anniversary of the massacre at the Babi Yar ravine near Kiev, Ukraine. On September 29, 1941, German occupying forces ordered the city's Jewish population to assemble at the ravine. The Jews complied, assuming they would be placed in a ghetto.

Instead, they were herded together and ordered to strip. Nazi machine gunners then systematically and brutally cut them down. That first day more than 33,000 Jewish men, women, and children were put to death. As the war continued, more mass slaughters occurred at Babi Yar; by the end, more than 100,000 people are thought to have been murdered there.

We mourn the tragic deaths of these innocent people at Babi Yar, along with the 55 million who perished in other places, during the Holocaust and World War II, as a result of the brutal and sadistic policies of Adolf Hitler.

To prevent future genocides, we must dedicate ourselves to the promotion of human rights for all people. Humanity should never again have to suffer through such a nightmare.

As the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress, I am firmly committed to this effort. Since early 2004 I have been working to draw the world's attention to the genocide that is occurring in Darfur, Sudan. The international community must act now to safeguard innocent lives in Darfur, as I noted in a September 26 Financial Times op-ed piece—which I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—and in legislation that passed the House this week (H. Res. 723). This resolution calls on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, and particularly to protect civilians.

Unfortunately, while the world community in general has been quick to condemn the genocide, mobilization in support of the Sudanese civilians has been slow. Evidently, the world needs reminding that the genocide in Darfur, like the Holocaust before it, is not just a local crisis. It is a crisis for all humanity and obliges all of us to act with urgency. Words without deeds trivialize the lessons that humanity professes to have learned from the Holocaust, and they betray the people of Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to reflect on the tragedy currently occurring in Darfur, and to recommit themselves to making every effort to end such global outrages.

[From the Financial Times, Sept. 27, 2006]

WE MUST MOBILIZE PRESSURE AND FEAR TO
SAVE DARFUR

(By Tom Lantos)

History will regard the situation in Darfur, Sudan, as an African holocaust if the international community fails to protect innocent lives. The African Union's decision late last week to extend its mandate in Darfur has bought just three more months for the rest of the world to persuade Sudanese leaders not to start another round of slaughter. Khartoum still refuses to agree to let United Nations peacekeepers take over from the AU troops when they go home.

The U.N. Security Council voted last month to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers to replace the AU troops; the Sudanese government immediately rejected that resolution and announced that the AU had no authority to transfer its mission to the U.N. Then Sudan began to fan out more than 30,000 of its troops, allegedly to bring peace and stability to Darfur and to protect civilians.

Imagine if Hitler had offered to "protect" Europe's Jews. As a Holocaust survivor, I cannot think of a more despicable act than to have Khartoum send soldiers—who have raped and slaughtered thousands and displaced 2 million people—to "protect"—civilians.

Evidence is mounting that the Sudanese government is positioning air and ground forces to complete the genocide in Darfur that began 3 years ago. There is ample reason to fear a full-scale and imminent onslaught against civilians.

The U.S. government declaration calling the situation in Darfur genocide and a growing international civilian movement raised the expectations of the helpless. But we have failed to galvanize sufficient global commitment to protect victims of genocide. The May 5 signing of the Darfur peace agreement seemed to offer a ray of hope that the darkest days were behind the innocent men,

women and children of Darfur. But that agreement is now on the verge of collapse because of resurgent violence.

The international community must put actions behind its now myriad words and commit to civilian protection by supporting the transition of the AU mission to the U.N. NATO must also broaden its support to the AU through this perilous and crucial transition to a U.N. peacekeeping mission that should deploy with or without the consent of the Sudanese government.

The past few years have shown that two things move Khartoum—pressure and fear. After September 11 2001, the thugs in the government there feared the consequences of harbouring Osama bin Laden and his terrorist cohorts, and they began to co-operate in the war against terrorism.

We must now mobilize those two powerful factors in the interest of civilian protection in Darfur, hold Khartoum's leaders accountable for the atrocities that continue to take place and make sure that Darfurians can return safely to their homes.

Whether to end genocide in Darfur is not a choice for Khartoum to make; it is a requirement to avoid not only international condemnation and isolation, but also an imposed civilian protection regime. I was proud to author a resolution calling on George W. Bush, the U.S. president, to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, with a specific emphasis on civilian protection (H. Res. 723).

If Khartoum continues to reject the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, an imposed civilian protection regime in Darfur should be the priority of the AU, the U.N., NATO, the European Union and the U.S. government. I will continue to push for the immediate deployment of Nato assets as part of a transitional operation to stop the atrocities while the U.N. forces are deployed.

If Khartoum persists in pursuing genocide, I support military action to neutralize those military forces employed by Sudan to attack civilians or to inhibit peacekeepers from their deployment. Khartoum must be made to understand that there will be severe consequences for a further genocidal assault on the people of Darfur. Its reaction to the Security Council resolution authorizing a peacekeeping operation is no surprise. Neither is its attempt to bully the AU into submission by issuing an ultimatum for the union to reject the U.N. resolution or leave Darfur.

Evidently, the world needs reminding that the genocide in Darfur is not just an African crisis. It is a crisis for all humanity and obliges all of us to act with urgency. Words without deeds betray the people of Darfur.